

REPORT OF THE JOINT GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING

Tuesday April 15, 2008

The Justice and Public Safety Subcommittee received the following reports:

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

- **Court Information Technology Fund Report:** As required by G. S. 7A-343.2, AOC reported that for the six-month period beginning July 1, 2007, the department collected \$3,844,228 in receipts from fees, including interest, charged for remote access to court records. The report included a list of all contracts entered into with third parties that provide remote access to court records. The receipts will be used to replace computer equipment and for receipt-supported technology positions.

The Subcommittee accepted the AOC report and recommended transmittal to full Governmental Operations.

Department of Justice (DOJ)

- **Report on the Statewide Automated Fingerprint Information System (SAFIS) (S.L. 2007-323, Section 15.1):** The Department reported on the status of the replacement project for the SAFIS technology infrastructure and also described the new technology's expanded capabilities in the area of palm print collection.
- **Report on Budget Deviations (G.S. 143C-6-4):** The Department reported on unanticipated seized and forfeited asset and federal grant receipts (\$5.95 million) that caused the Office of State Budget to adjust the agency's certified budget to reflect these increases.

The Subcommittee accepted the DOJ reports and recommended transmittal to full Governmental Operations.

Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

- **Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER):** The State Highway Patrol provided an ad hoc status report on the implementation of VIPER throughout the State. The project is about 40 percent complete with 24,000 users currently on the system. When completed, there will be 238 towers located across the state. Additional funding of \$85 million is needed to complete the system.

Department of Correction (DOC)

- **Report on Energy Committed to Offenders (ECO):** As required by S.L. 2007-323, Sect. 17.9, Energy Committed to Offenders submitted its annual legislative report. Copies of the report were placed in the Subcommittee members' notebooks.

The Subcommittee received the ECO report.

Office of Indigent Defense Services (OIDS)

- **Recoupment of Indigent Defense Funds:** Chairman Haire brought to the Committee's attention the county recoupment rates submitted as part of the OIDS annual report. The data indicates that a substantial number of counties recoup very little of the funds spent on indigent defense, particularly the attorney appointment fees required under 7A-455.1. Malcolm Hunter, OIDS Director, reported that the problem involves judges, clerks, and probation officers. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that a letter should be sent to the appropriate authorities expressing legislators' concerns about the low recoupment rates. Committee staff was directed to consult with Fiscal Research and Research Division staff to determine who should sign such a letter and to whom it should be sent.